

# THE LACLEDE BLADE

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A. J. CAYWOOD.

Friday, December 7, 1917

## Railroad Readjustments

The railroad managers of the country, who have already shown the efficiency of their industry when left to themselves, have proposed a series of readjustments in operation which will materially enhance the efficiency of our transportation systems and will relieve much of the stress under which manufacturing and all other life is now trying to exist. Most of the proposals are simple; but, such are the restrictions with which railroad operation is hampered by statute, it will be necessary to have governmental sanction for them before they can be put into effect. It is probable that the broad power which the president now exercises with reference to the railroads through the authority of some of the war legislation already enacted will enable him to decide the question without recourse to congress or to the interstate commerce commission. If so, there should be no delay in applying the remedies which the railroad men have worked out. We have already seen, in Russia's more warlike days, what it means to a belligerent nation to have its transportation system break down under the strain of wartime demands upon it. We are beginning to see in our own country now what it means to every phase of our life to have our transportation system badly coordinated to the nation's needs. Out of this knowledge should grow other knowledge—that the railroads, whatever their past sins are today rendering the nation a greater service without fuss and feathers than any other industry, and that they are deserving of cooperation and assistance in even greater measure than they have yet asked for it.

## Advanced War Class

An advanced class of the reserve officers' training corps has been organized at the University of Missouri. This is made possible through the designation of the University corps by President Wilson as a senior infantry unit. Thirty-two men are in the class.

Members of the advanced class drill five days a week and receive instruction as company and platoon commanders. Most of them are officers of the cadet corps. Instruction in military map making and reading is given, to be supplemented later by practical work in the same line.

The men must have had two or more years of military training, and they must agree to take military training for at least two more years and to attend training camps in the summer. They receive \$9 a month from the government and two hours credit a semester from the University.

## News From Soldiers

Although the failure to receive letters from men in the service is not pleasant to relatives and friends at home the adage "no news is good news" never was more true than at present. The report of every casualty at home or abroad is immediately wired or cabled to officials at Washington, being relayed from there without loss of time to the emergency address of the soldier or sailor affected. It is also at once released for publication in the newspapers. No news of casualties has or will be held up.

No man in the service has received orders not to write home; he has been urged, on the contrary, to keep in touch with relatives and friends. The forces in France have at their disposal post cards giving general information in regard to health and the receipt of letters and parcels, which may be dispatched without payment of postage.

Care is also taken to see that mail intended for soldiers and sailors reaches them promptly. Where the regimental and company designation of a soldier is not known it may be secured by application to The Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D. C. In one week 1,674 letters with insufficient addresses were received at this office. On 1,232 the addresses were completed and they were forwarded, 123 were returned to senders, 58 went to the dead-letter office because sender's addresses were not given, and the balance were held with the view that the addresses might be completed later.

## Red Cross Stickers

Our country's worst enemy is he who, like the spy, enters the camps of our soldiers and the homes of our workers and, like the Hun, kills and maims men, women, and children in war and peace but especially in war. In times of peace, in the past, this enemy has taken 5000 lives a year in Missouri; in times of war, who can say how many fold lives will be taken—needlessly, for this slaughter and distress is preventable. This enemy of our land and all lands is tuberculosis, or consumption, is best fought in the open air and in the light of the sun, and must be fought with persistence and diligence by all. In Missouri this fight is being directed by the Missouri



association for the relief and control of tuberculosis, by local anti-tuberculosis societies and by the teachers and pupils of our schools—public, private, and parochial—in an annually recurring campaign of education and sale of Red Cross Christmas seals.

These little seals, or stickers, often mis-called stamps, are issued by the American Red Cross and are distributed and sold through the national and state tuberculosis associations. Nine tenths of the gross proceeds of the sale is retained within the state, and to local communities where the interest in the work and the number of seals sold warrant, as much as 50 per cent of the gross proceeds will be rebated to be expended for local work that is approved by the national and state societies. Over four and one-half million seals were sold in Missouri last December, over a hundred million in the United States, giving a revenue for the fight of over a million dollars.

The seal for 1917 is the most attractive ever issued by the Red Cross. It is printed in red and green and is warranted to stick and to carry.

See E. Thurman's advertisement in this paper as to the durability of the make of piano he is selling. Any instrument that will stand up under the strain of an army encampment, in constant use by many players, will stand any test it might be subjected to.

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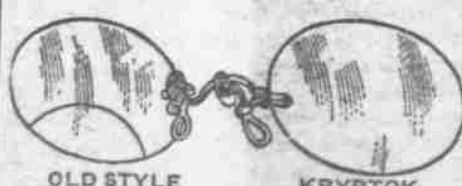
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# Our Boys

in the army are proving the extraordinary durability of pianos from the House of Baldwin

Three hundred pianos from The House of Baldwin are now in use in the training camps and cantonments throughout the camps.

These instruments are played upon almost continuously from the time the Y. M. C. A. huts open in the morning until they close at night.

Hundreds of hands "tickle the ivories" and most of the boys go in for volume rather than pianissimo effects.

The army work is proving the truth of the statement made by a famous artist about the Baldwin product. He said: "You can't pound the quality out"

These instruments must stand in a day more hard service than they would receive in a month in the average home. They have already been used as much in the camp as they would be used for a lifetime in the family.

Let us show you some instruments exactly like those bought by the Army Y. M. C. A.—also other pianos and player-pianos made by The House of Baldwin and so built as to give the same remarkable service.

Call now and arrange to have one of these fine instruments in your home Christmas.

## E. Thurman,

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